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E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/17/2034  
TAGS: [PINR](#) [BEXP](#) [BTIO](#) [EINV](#) [ENRG](#) [RS](#)  
SUBJECT: (U) RUSSIAN ENERGY MINISTER SERGEY SHMATKO  
(C-RE9-01506)

Classified By: MICHAEL P. OWENS, ACTING DIR, INR/OPS. REASON: 1.4(C).

11. (C/NF) WASHINGTON ANALYSTS ARE INTERESTED IN INFORMATION CONCERNING RUSSIAN ENERGY MINISTER SERGEY SHMATKO. SHMATKO SINCE HIS APPOINTMENT IN MAY 2008 AS ENERGY MINISTER HAS QUICKLY ASSUMED A PROACTIVE ROLE IN ADVANCING RUSSIA'S ENERGY DIPLOMACY. SHMATKO ALSO APPEARS OPEN TO REVIVING THE LONG-DORMANT, HIGH-LEVEL US-RUSSIA ENERGY DIALOGUE. HE DESCRIBED A MEETING WITH THE US SPECIAL ENVOY FOR EURASIAN ENERGY AT THE SOFIA ENERGY SUMMIT IN LATE APRIL 2009 AS OPENING A NEW STAGE IN BILATERAL ENERGY RELATIONS, PARTICULARLY ON THE GLOBAL LEVEL, ACCORDING TO RUSSIAN PRESS REPORTING. ANALYSTS BELIEVE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON SHMATKO WOULD PROVIDE INSIGHT INTO HIS THINKING ON RELATIONS WITH THE US, ESPECIALLY IN THE ENERGY SECTOR. WASHINGTON ANALYSTS WOULD APPRECIATE ANY AVAILABLE INFORMATION ON SHMATKO, AS TIME AND RESOURCES PERMIT.

1A. (U) SHMATKO AND ENERGY DECISIONMAKING.

- 1) (C) HOW INFLUENTIAL IS SHMATKO WITHIN THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT?
- 2) (C) WHAT IS SHMATKO'S RELATIVE INFLUENCE ON ENERGY DECISIONMAKING? WHAT FACTORS CONTRIBUTE TO OR LIMIT SHMATKO'S INFLUENCE ON ENERGY DECISIONMAKING?

1B. (U) TIES TO RUSSIAN LEADERSHIP AND ENERGY ELITES.

- 1) (C) WHAT TIES AND ACCESS DOES SHMATKO HAVE TO PRESIDENT MEDVEDEV AND PREMIER PUTIN? HOW MUCH INTERACTION DOES SHMATKO HAVE WITH MEDVEDEV AND PUTIN, AND WHAT IS THE NATURE OF THIS INTERACTION?
- 2) (C) WHAT TIES DOES SHMATKO HAVE TO OTHER RUSSIAN OFFICIALS OR PEOPLE INFLUENTIAL IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR? WHAT ARE HIS TIES TO DEPUTY PREMIER IGOR SECHIN AND GAZPROMBANK HEAD ANDREY AKIMOV?

1C. (U) SHMATKO'S VIEWS.

- 1) (C) WHAT ARE SHMATKO'S VIEWS ON THE US-RUSSIA ENERGY DIALOGUE? DO HIS VIEWS DIFFER FROM THOSE WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT? IF SO, WHO?
- 2) (C) WHAT POLICIES DOES SHMATKO SUPPORT AND HOW DO THESE POLICIES AFFECT US INTERESTS?
- 3) (C) HOW DOES SHMATKO VIEW THE UNITED STATES?
- 4) (C) HOW DOES SHMATKO VIEW FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN RUSSIA, AND WHAT HAS BEEN HIS EXPERIENCE WITH FOREIGN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND BUSINESS EXECUTIVES?

1D. (U) BACKGROUND, PERSONALITY AND STYLE.

- 1) (C) WHAT APPROACHES WORK BEST WHEN ENGAGING SHMATKO?
- 2) (C) REPORT ANY AVAILABLE INFORMATION REGARDING SHMATKO'S

LEADERSHIP AND DECISIONMAKING STYLE, CITING ANECDOTAL EVIDENCE WHERE POSSIBLE.

3) (C) REPORT ANY AVAILABLE BIOGRAPHIC OR PERSONAL DATA ON SHMATKO.

12. (U) PLEASE CITE C-RE9-01506 IN THE SUBJECT LINE OF REPORTING IN RESPONSE TO THE ABOVE QUESTIONS.  
CLINTON